

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Atsushi YAMAGUCHI et al

Application No.: 10/022,228



Filed: December 20, 2001

Docket No.: 111476

For: EXPOSURE APPARATUS AND EXPOSURE METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 4, 6, 7 and 11 as follows:

4. (Amended) An exposure apparatus as set forth in claim 1, which derives the range of acceleration by a process of trial and error by repeatedly detecting offset of said mask while increasing or decreasing the acceleration of the stage in steps.
6. (Amended) An exposure apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a storage device which stores the range of acceleration of said stage.
7. (Amended) An exposure apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein
said apparatus is further comprising a sensor which detects information relating to a capability of said stage to hold said mask and

said control device changes said range of acceleration accordance with said information.

11. (Amended) An exposure method as set forth in claim 8, further comprising detecting information relating to the capability of the stage to hold the mask and changing the range of acceleration in accordance with the information.

Please add new claims 16-19 as follows:

--16. An exposure apparatus as set forth in claim 2, which derives the range of acceleration by a process of trial and error by repeatedly detecting offset of said mask while increasing or decreasing the acceleration of the stage in steps.--

--17. An exposure apparatus as set forth in claim 2, further comprising a storage device which stores the range of acceleration of said stage.--

--18. An exposure apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein said apparatus is further comprising a sensor which detects information relating to a capability of said stage to hold said mask and said control device changes said range of acceleration accordance with said information. --

--19. An exposure method as set forth in claim 9, further comprising detecting information relating to the capability of the stage to hold the mask and changing the range of acceleration in accordance with the information.--

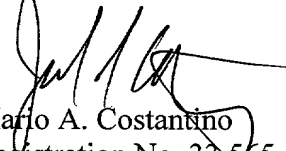
REMARKS

Claims 1 - 19 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 4, 6, 7 and 11 are amended to remove multiple dependencies. Claims 16-19 are added to compensate for the material deleted from claims 4, 6, 7 and 11. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R.

1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,


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MAC:JSA/mlb
Attached: Appendix
Date: April 12, 2002

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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claims 16-19 are added.

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

4. (Amended) An exposure apparatus as set forth in claim 1-~~or~~2, which derives the range of acceleration by a process of trial and error by repeatedly detecting offset of said mask while increasing or decreasing the acceleration of the stage in steps.

6. (Amended) An exposure apparatus as set forth in claim 1-~~or~~2, further comprising a storage device which stores the range of acceleration of said stage.

7. (Amended) An exposure apparatus as set forth in claim 1-~~or~~2, wherein said apparatus is further comprising a sensor which detects information relating to a capability of said stage to hold said mask and

said control device changes said range of acceleration accordance with said information.

11. (Amended) An exposure method as set forth in claim 8-~~or~~9, further comprising

detecting information relating to the capability of the stage to hold the mask and changing the range of acceleration in accordance with the information.